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REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended. Applicants also submit herewith an amended Figure 7. No new matter has been added. For instance, support for the amendment of claim 1 appears e.g. at Figures 2-5 of the application.

In the Office Action, an amended Figure 7 is requested. Applicant submits herewith such an amended Figure 7 labeled "Replacement Sheet".

Claim 1 was objected to for the term "can rotates". Claim 1 has been amended to obviate the objection.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) by Fieldman (U.S. Patent 1991201). The rejection is traversed.

Applicant's claim 1 calls for, *inter alia*:

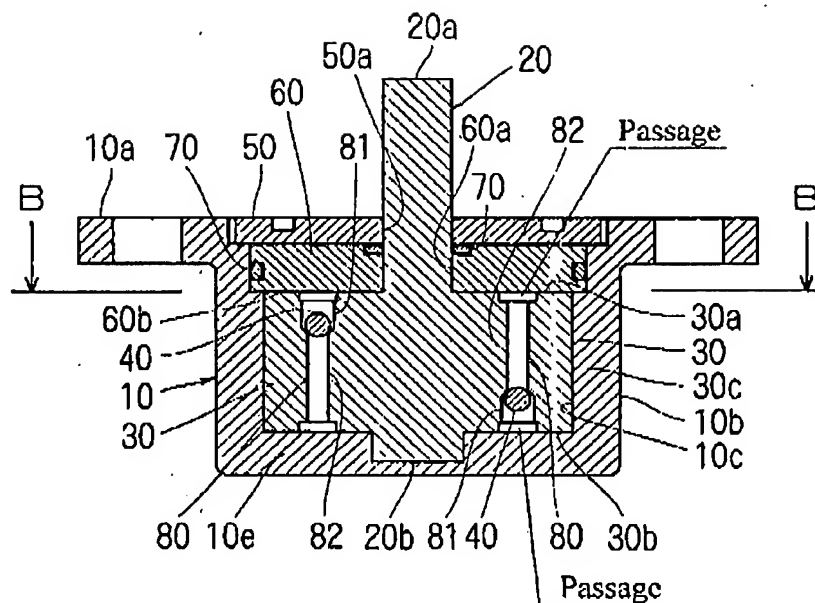
a rotary damper, wherein a passage to make the large hole portion communicate with the pressure chamber comprises of a groove formed in one of the upper end surface or the lower end surface of the vane member and a passage to make the small hole portion communicate with the non-pressure chamber comprises a groove formed on the other of the upper end surface or the lower end surface of the vane member.

Such a system as Applicant discloses is exemplified in Figure 2 of the drawings (copied in part below) of the application as follows: for a passage to make the large hole portion 81 communicates with the pressure chamber 11 comprises a groove formed on one of the upper end surface 30a or the lower end surface 30b of the vane member 30 and a passage to make the small hole portion 82 communicate with the non-pressure chamber 12 comprises a groove formed on the other of the upper end surface 30a or the lower end surface 30b of the vane member 30.

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The vane member 30 making up the liquid passage 80 can be suitably formed by using a metal mold. The liquid passage 80 and the vane member 30 are simultaneously formed by e.g. using the metal mold. In such circumstance, since the passage to make the large hole portion 81 communicates with the pressure chamber 11 comprises a groove formed on one of the upper end surface 30a or the lower end surface 30b of the vane member 30 and the passage to make the small hole portion 82 communicates with the non-pressure chamber 12 suitably comprises a groove formed on the other of the upper end surface 30a or the lower end surface 30b of the vane member 30, it is possible to form each of the passages and the vane member 30 at substantially the same time e.g. by using a mold.

Thus, the system disclosed by Applicant provides notable advantages including that the vane member 30 having each of the passages and the liquid passage 80 can be formed in one process step.

The cited Fieldman document does not disclose or otherwise suggest such aspects of Applicant's claimed invention.

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Thus, for instance, in Fieldman, a passage (51) to make a large hole portion (48) with a pressure chamber is made up of a hole made to be open on one pressed surface of a vane member (25a). The hole to function as the passage (51) is formed so as to be orthogonal to the large hole portion (48). See page 2, right column, lines 57 to 59 and Figures 7 and 8 of Fieldman.

Thus, in the system reported in Fieldman, the vane member (25a) having the passage (51) and a liquid passage which has the large hole portion (48) and a small hole portion (47) can not be produced in one process step. Hence, in the system reported in Fieldman, it would be necessary that, after the vane member (25a) having the liquid passage is formed by using a metal mold, the hole to function as the passage (51) would be formed by using a drill. Simultaneous formation of the hole would not be possible. As a consequence, multiple process steps would be required to form the vane member (25a) having the passage (51) and the liquid passage.

In view thereof, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Peter F. Corless

Registration No.: 33,860

EDWARDS ANGELL PALMER & DODGE
LLP

P.O. Box 55874

Boston, Massachusetts 02205

(617) 439-4444

Attorneys/Agents For Applicant